

PLAAS

Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



PLAAS

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A woman in a red patterned dress is pouring pink beans from a bucket into a large pile. The beans are falling through the air, creating a dynamic scene. The background is a clear blue sky.

PLAAS is an independent
policy research institute
within the Faculty
of Economic and
Management Sciences
at the University of the
Western Cape.

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IMAGE: DAVID ROSEN

about PLAAS

PLAAS does research, policy engagement, teaching and training about the dynamics of chronic poverty and structural inequality in Southern Africa, with a particular emphasis on the key role of restructuring and contesting land holding and agro-food systems in the subcontinent and beyond.

Our mission emphasises the central importance of the agro-food system in creating and perpetuating poverty – and also in eradicating it. For much of our existence, our work has concentrated heavily on issues of production in these systems. But our focus is broadening to consider the upstream and downstream aspects of agro-food commodity chains and systems. Key aspects of social policy affecting the dynamics of poverty and inequality in southern and South Africa are also being taken up in our work.

Within this field of investigation, our work focuses on the dynamics of marginalised livelihoods – particularly livelihoods which are vulnerable, structurally excluded or incorporated into broader economic systems on adverse terms.

In this respect, we have considerable expertise in analysing land- and agriculture-based livelihoods of farm workers; small and subsistence farmers; those pertaining to coastal and inland artisanal fisheries and fishing communities; and the informally self-employed in rural as well as urban areas. •



IMAGE: RYAN BROWN/UN WOMEN

Director's note



Message from Prof. Moenieba Isaacs
Acting Director: 2018

PLAAS had a busy 2018. With the land reform debate catapulted into the public sphere, new teaching initiatives, and various research projects and outputs, our team had quite a year.

At its 54th elective conference the African National Congress (ANC) resolved that 'expropriation without compensation (EWOOC)' should be one of the key mechanisms available to government to pave the way for a transformation mandate through land reform. Land, for the first time since the beginning of our democracy, is at the top of the agenda of the ANC government and policy, media, investors, banking institutions and civil society. Land is often called an 'emotive' issue in South Africa, but it is not merely about emotions. It is central to the politics, economy, social relations, and future prospects of this country. Dealt with badly, it could undermine social cohesion, investor confidence and tenure security, thereby undermining citizens' livelihoods and entrenching poverty. Dealt with in a visionary and responsible manner, addressing the land question can build a more broad-based and thriving society. Wider land questions have emerged, including: who should get the land, which land should it be, how can land use be supported, what tenure rights should people have to the land, and what will be the outcomes and success indicators? Our leading land experts Ruth Hall and Ben Cousins continued to offer independent and critical views informed by rigorous empirical evidence and careful interpretation of the evidence, through various interactions, including policy discussions, meetings, ANC land summits and conferences – including the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture. All this requires deep and rooted expertise to help shape a constructive and well-informed public and policy debate.

In the past year, our African footprint grew significantly with our role in the Network of Excellence in Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) and our long-term agreement with the German Academic Exchange

Service (DAAD). PLAAS became a NELGA node to support curriculum alignment and endorse short-courses in land governance to Southern, Eastern and Western Africa. We strengthened our African research networks with the Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI), BRICS Initiative in Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS), the Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) Consortium, and the Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA). PLAAS is also active in a wide range of networks, including the World Forum of Fisher People and the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) international network of small-scale fisheries researchers.

PLAAS prides itself on its scholars who engage with civil society, social movements and community organisations. These scholars use research, policy instruments, and action research methodologies to obtain inputs from vulnerable groups and transform them into tools that are simple, practical and user-friendly. Two of our young scholars, Refloe Joala and Emmanuel Sulle, are contributing to our regional footprint in Zambia, Mozambique, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Togo, and Cameroon, while also working toward their PhDs. Sulle is also part of the technical team to review Tanzania's new National Land Policy and its implementation strategy.

PLAAS's contribution to the social dimensions of fisheries research deepened this year with unpacking the notion of Illegal Unregulated Unreported Fisheries and the awkward fit with small-scale fisheries – as this sector is often described as illegal, unregulated and failing to report their catches. Worldwide, fish is a highly traded commodity, and fraud, money laundering, corruption, poaching, illicit trade, piracy, and slavery are all part of this sector. Moenieba Isaacs' work in Buffeljagsbaai attempted to understand the criminality of the illegal fishing activity and its relationship to poverty, marginalisation, livelihoods and gendered dynamics.

In her presentation at the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (WSFC) in Thailand, and the

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Sustainable Blue Economy conference in Kenya in October 2018, Isaacs introduced the concept of Blue Justice for small-scale fisheries in the new development agenda of Blue Growth/Blue Economy strongly rooted in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. She posed the question: what about those who make a living *on and next* to the water and whose access is threatened by marine protected areas, tourism, zoning, aquaculture development, and oil and gas extraction?

In this last year PLAAS maintained strong links with partner schools, departments, institutes and centres within the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) and other faculties at the University of the Western Cape, thus supporting internal synergies within the university. Partners include the Centre of Excellence in Food Security, the School of Government, the School of Public Health, the Institute for Social Development, the Department of Political Studies, Women's and Gender Studies and others.

In August 2018, Ruth Hall and Moenieba Isaacs provided a platform for the women leaders in civil society and community-based organisations to present their perspectives on land reform, property and tenure rights in South Africa, at the "Women in Land and Natural Resources" seminar. Issues discussed included whether there is scope for solidarity among women struggling for land and fishing rights – in cities, on farms, in communal areas, and coastal communities.

PLAAS, in short, had a successful and productive year. Its researchers published a book, authored and co-authored nine peer reviewed and accredited journal articles, three book chapters, three research reports, nine opinion pieces and blogs, three policy briefs and nine working papers. We remain in high demand as conference speakers: in 2017/18 we carried out 48 conference and workshop presentations, 37 seminars, and hosted 64 events. We also produced a documentary on criminal livelihoods in the fishing industry.

PLAAS is led by a team of committed, talented, and dedicated senior academics and DST-NRF rated researchers. Together, we have a cumulative 100 years of work experience. We value diversity, inclusivity and excellence, and creating a workplace of choice. We have a culture of care, loyalty, teamwork, and an immense sense of pride in working for PLAAS. •



48

CONFERENCE
& WORKSHOP
PRESENTATIONS



101

SEMINARS &
EVENTS



37

PUBLISHED
PUBLICATIONS
INCLUDING A BOOK,
JOURNAL ARTICLES
& CHAPTERS,
WORKING PAPERS,
& POLICY BRIEFS



01

DOCUMENTARY
PRODUCED

Highlights of the year



1. The Alliance for Rural Democracy marches on parliament to demand that land reform policies address key issues affecting the rural poor.
2. (FLTR) Moenieba Isaacs, Ben Cousins and Ruth Hall address the Banking Association on 'expropriation without compensation'.
3. PLAAS held its first Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) short course on 'the political economy of land governance in Africa', in October 2018. Here are its graduates at the certificate ceremony.
4. The Alliance for Rural Democracy demands that government acts to defend the land rights of ordinary people.
5. Ben Cousins discussing 'land expropriation' on Al Jazeera.
6. President's Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture in September 2018. PLAAS's Ruth Hall (far right) sat on the panel.
7. Moenieba Isaacs (far left) at the first global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya from 26–28 November, 2018.
8. Ruth Hall being interviewed by SABC parliamentary reporter Lukhanyo Calata.

Research focus areas

- Land, Water, and Resource Rights
- Agriculture and Farming Systems
- Marine Resources and Fisheries
- Natural Resource Management
- Food Systems
- Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy



Land, water and resource rights

Undoubtedly, 2018 will be remembered as the year when ‘expropriation without compensation’ became a household term in South Africa, and the focus of heated and polarised political contestation. PLAAS was centrally involved in responding to these political developments. Drawing on years of monitoring government’s land reform initiatives, extensive field research into land reform, and analysis of the property clause in the Constitution, we were well placed to inform and shape public debate.

Our leading land scholars, Ben Cousins and Ruth Hall, gave numerous public talks and lectures, interviews on television, on radio and in the print media, both in South Africa and internationally. They gave briefings to civil society and activist groupings as well as financial institutions and banks, embassies and the diplomatic communities and leading South African think tanks. In addition, they contributed to parliamentary processes as expert advisors, and held high-level meetings with government and political groupings.

In September, President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed Ruth Hall to the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture, which deliberated over an eight-month period from 2018 into 2019. The Panel was tasked with reviewing research and conducting widespread consultations across South African society in order to develop a set of recommendations for law, policy and implementation, as well as institutional reforms.

In parallel to these debates, PLAAS’s field-based research on land reform continued, with Farai Mtero leading up research on land redistribution and its outcomes. Together with Katlego Ramantsima, Nkanyiso Gumede, and Donna Hornby, this team conducted a series of qualitative case studies across five provinces, leading to significant findings of elite capture in the land reform process. PLAAS also worked with Phuhlisani Solutions to take forward the recommendations on land reform that had been proposed by Parliament’s High-Level Panel on the assessment of Key Legislation, chaired by former President Kgalema Motlanthe, in late 2017. With support from the Open Society Foundation, this work entailed popularising the findings and

recommendations of the Panel.

Beyond South Africa, ongoing struggles over land rights continued to be a focus of PLAAS research. Growing commercial investments on community-held land across Africa have provoked controversy as governments, traditional and other authorities transact with people’s land, often without adequate consultation or consent. Understanding these state-sanctioned and private-sector-led ‘land grabs’ has been a priority focus of PLAAS since 2010, and we have contributed to policy responses in global fora, such as at the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as on this continent, with the African Union and its partners the UN Economic Commission for Africa. In 2018, as part of this ongoing work, Phillan Zamchiya and Refiloe Joala conducted collaborative action research with civil society organisations to promote women’s land and water rights in Zambia (with Zambia Land Alliance) and in Mozambique (with ADECRU). Funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation, their work with communities directly affected by soya and timber projects explored the challenges faced by local people to invoke and entrench their rights under global and regional policy frameworks. Emmanuel Sulle led a multi-country team investigating the nature of ‘growth corridors’ in driving agricultural commercialisation, with a focus on Africa’s eastern seaboard – Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique – as well as Angola. With further support from the Open Society Foundation, and building on our partnerships with African academics as part of the Future Agricultures Consortium and Future Agricultures’ Agricultural Policy Research in Africa Programme, this work was pathbreaking in underscoring the political economy of growth corridors, and the contested questions of their implications for land rights and land use change.

Women’s land rights were also the focus of another PLAAS project, undertaken in partnership with Oxfam International and with funding from the European Union, which aimed to develop scorecards for countries with which to assess their progress towards realising international norms and standards with regards to legal recognition, enforcement, protection and governance. PLAAS, led by Emmanuel Sulle and



in collaboration with Sue Mbaya, developed a generic scorecard to be applied at country level, and on this basis also drew up a ‘training of trainers’ module to assist activists to use this tool.

PLAAS’s support for the next generation of African social scientists continued with fundraising for the Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA) network, including PhD candidates and early-career scholars. With support from the Packard Foundation, PLAAS was able to issue a call for applications for small grants to enable young African scholars to do primary field research and produce evidence-based policy advice on issues relating to land governance, food security, rural livelihoods and agricultural commercialisation. This work was driven by Cyriaque Hakizimana, with input from Ruth Hall.

Linking African struggles around land with global rural movements, PLAAS teamed up with leading scholars in the field of critical agrarian studies to launch an Emancipatory

Rural Politics Initiative (ERPI), with support from the Open Society Foundation, among others. Building on prior connections in our Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI), Ruth Hall worked with four collaborators to lead this global initiative, publishing an article in the *Journal of Peasant Studies* to frame the debate, and co-convened the Authoritarian Populism and the Rural World Conference, held in The Hague in March 2018. This event, drawing together scholars and activists from around the world in a rich engagement, addressed the rising spectre of authoritarian populism across the developing as well as the developed world, often driving right-wing politics from and into rural societies. To ensure strong representation from young African scholars and activists, PLAAS secured support from Rosa Luxemburg Foundation for small grants to fund collaborative research across Southern Africa, and convened a pre-conference workshop to strengthen analysis and proposals for further joint work. •

Agriculture and farming systems

While in debates about the 'land question' in 2018, the issue of expropriation without compensation loomed largest in public debates, some of the most important unresolved questions facing South African land reform centre on which farming systems and models to promote through land reform. What scale of farming should be promoted by land reform? What place is there for small-scale black farmers in South Africa? What role can land reform play in helping them? What other kinds of support do they need? What might be the wider impacts of a smallholder-focused land reform on national food security and employment? What, indeed, is the class agenda of land reform? All of these questions require a better understanding of the nature of South Africa's agrarian structure and underlying systems on which farming depends.

Ben Cousins and Ruth Hall focused on these questions in a range of presentations, op-eds and policy briefs throughout the year. Building on the research of Amelia Genis, a recent PhD graduate at PLAAS, they argued that larger-scale commercial agriculture is highly differentiated, and that only a small minority of commercial farmers produce the vast bulk of food. This opens opportunities for a large, but low-risk, redistribution of land to market-oriented smallholders – many of whom are engaged in informal agricultural markets. Impacts on employment are potentially significant. Some sectors of commercial agriculture, such as citrus and forestry, also have the potential to create new jobs. While well-received by many land activists, both the commercial farming lobby and other academics met these suggestions with considerable resistance, prompting heated public debates.

Other PLAAS research offers insights on the key features of smallholder production of a variety of crops and livestock. They include Donna Hornby's doctoral thesis on former labour tenants in Besters now producing cattle for sale and also for social reproduction, Alex Dubb's work on smallholder sugar cane producers, and Mngqobi Ngubane's doctoral research on medium-scale black land reform beneficiaries in the eastern Free State.

Farai Mtero and his colleagues, Katlego Ramantsima and Nkanyiso Gumede, also undertook relevant research focused on questions such as who benefited from land redistribution over the past ten years, and on the character of farming systems on redistributed land. Refiloe Joala's work on soybeans production by smallholder farmers in Zambia and Mozambique showed that it is difficult to achieve a 'win-win' solution when new commercial crops are introduced to smallholder farmers. Ruth Hall and Ben Cousins argued in a journal article that the 'export' of the large-scale commercial farming model from South Africa to other African countries, together with its close upstream and downstream linkages to corporate agribusiness, often have negative impacts on both smallholders and the rural poor.

Achievements in the past year include several book chapters, journal articles, policy briefs and op-eds on these issues being published, together with growing recognition of the policy relevance of our research findings. Going forward, a critical challenge remains how to contest the hegemony of the large-scale commercial model of farming within policy-making networks. These narrow and normative models of 'proper farming' still tend to dominate debates, as evidenced by recent proposals for land reform led by the private sector, and put forward by organised agriculture and aligned academics. •



A better understanding of the nature of South Africa's agrarian structure and underlying systems is required.

Marine resources and fisheries



Africa's vast fisheries resources (marine and inland) provide food, income, employment, and revenue for the continent's population and governments. Sustainable social and economic benefits from fisheries could potentially be increased if member states and the continent could overcome the numerous problems that continue to hinder the management and governance of fisheries.

Small-scale fisheries employ 90% of people in capture fisheries and contribute greatly towards food and nutrition security and poverty reduction. Africa's small-scale fisheries potential is not being fully realised due to inadequate technological and financial constraints, gender inequities and insufficient human resources. Open access remains a serious problem, which requires the introduction of forms of rights-based inclusive management. Unfortunately, small-scale fisheries remain a low priority for most African governments.

Furthermore, Africa continues to be impacted by serious fisheries crime. Small-scale fisheries are impacted negatively by this, as big industrialised vessels overfish the oceans with impunity. This results in the loss of social and economic benefits, revenue and overfishing.

Intra-African fish trade itself is low, with trade among African countries remaining less than 12%. Most African countries do not have access to lucrative international markets for their fish and fish products, due to their inability to comply with product and sanitary standards and certification procedures required by import markets. Poor and insufficient infrastructure remains a major constraint for the distribution and trade of fish and fish products. Although African Union (AU) member states have established regional fisheries and trade bodies in most regions of Africa, intra- and inter-regional collaboration, coordination and coherence in fisheries policy and management, and trade remain weak. All these factors result in low returns and benefits from African fisheries.

In addition, the African Aquaculture sector remains greatly underdeveloped compared to other continents, with Africa still contributing less than 5% to world aquaculture production. Some of the constraints include, weak institutions and policy frameworks, inadequate human resources capacity, low investment and low technological adaptation.

Most concerning, however, is the rapid encroachment on the marine and inland aquatic

resources and environments through corporate investment in new sectors such as gas, petroleum, pharmaceuticals, mariculture and cage culture, forming a new frontier for capitalist accumulation. This is termed 'blue growth'. But while mainstream discussions of these developments are almost uniformly positive, there are important downsides. In addition to potential environmental destruction, such forms of investment are unlikely to benefit marginalised coastal communities or society at large.

PLAAS's work on these issues in 2018 concentrated on fisheries crime, small-scale fisheries, developing a critique of the Blue Growth agenda, the 'Women of Buffeljagsbaai' documentary, and Blue Justice.

Moenieba Isaacs's work in small-scale fisheries has been concerned primarily with those who make a living 'above the water' and 'next to the water' and how life below the water, extractive activities, large-scale aquaculture zones, the proclamation of Marine Protected Areas, and elite tourism often impact negatively on their livelihoods, food security, tenure, and access. At the World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress that took place on 22–26 October 2018 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the theme 'Transdisciplinarity and Transformation for the Future of Small-Scale Fisheries', Isaacs questioned whether the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international soft law like the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) prioritise women's interests, rights, and access to land and marine resources. With the UN FAO prioritising the SDGs and Blue Economy, space, place, livelihoods and food security of communities that depend on fishing are threatened. There is a need for the implementation of international soft law in national policies. Isaacs then called on international research networks, the FAO, donors, and small-scale fisher organisations to campaign for #BlueJustice for small-scale fisheries.

Isaacs' empirical work on fisheries crime uses a human rights lens, prioritising the right to food and food security, when investigating traditional fisheries management and enforcement models in addressing illegal fishing in the South African small-scale sector. Her main research question is how the

fisheries crime paradigm might be reconciled with the small-scale fisheries policy (SSFP) towards addressing illegal fishing in South African small-scale fisheries. As part of her research outputs, she produced a two-part documentary, 'Sarah Niemand and the women of Buffeljagsbaai'. This was part of the University of the Western Cape's contribution to the South Africa-Sweden Research & Innovation Week. This event was held from 14–18 May 2018 under the theme 'Social transformation through change: Knowledge and social development strategies for society'. The short film was also shown at the launch of the LE Femmes Network for Women in Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement on October 17, 2018 at UN City, Copenhagen.

The narrative of 'blue justice' continued throughout Isaacs' presentations at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya from 26–28 November 2018. The presentation theme was 'Women in the Blue Economy – Lessons from the field for better participation and equity.' She also presented this at an International Development Research Centre (IDRC) side event on November 26, 2018, and at the Korean International Cooperation Conference on Oceans and Fisheries (KICCOF) event on 27 November 2018 at the same conference.

In his work on livelihoods related to marine resources and fisheries, Mafa Hara continued his research on the Water Research Commission-funded project 'Towards enhancing contributions of inland fisheries to rural livelihoods'. In 2018, Hara undertook research on factors affecting entry and participation of rural communities in inland fisheries market value chains and considered what institutional mechanisms could assist in promoting pro-poor market value chains, in collaboration with Prof Edwin Muchapondwa (University of Cape Town) and two master's students on the project (Fortunate Mashego and Zandi Naka) using Pongola Dam, Flag Boshielo Dam and Voëlvlei Dam as case study sites.

The results and recommendations from the baseline survey project on inland fisheries

(Baseline and Scoping Study on the Development and Sustainable Utilisation of Storage Dams for Inland Fisheries and their Contribution to Rural Livelihoods), led to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' (DAFF) fisheries branch taking overall responsibility for the recognition and regularisation of inland fisheries in South Africa. A 'National Inland Fisheries Policy Framework for South Africa' was submitted to parliament in March 2018; the draft policy was still undergoing approval and promulgation by the end of 2018.

The Fish Trade Project was also completed in 2018. In April 2018, Hara attended the final workshop on the project in Kampala, Uganda and presented the key findings of the project in Southern Africa together with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Two of the project's MPhil students, Emilienne Ndofo Epo and Tawanda Jimu, graduated in September 2018. Chikondi Pasani, the project's PhD student, also made good progress during the year.

Going forward, some of the key research aspects are:

- The use of South Africa's anchovy for human consumption as a response to the decline in sardine and also as an innovation in the use of a resource that is currently underutilised for food and nutrition security.
- Oceans and coasts and inland aquatic resources offer valuable ecosystem services to society. Competition for these is growing, resulting in conflicts and pressure on the natural capital. A key research consideration is how to achieve inclusive and equitable planning, development and governance of aquatic resources.
- The structural organisation of small-scale fisheries (most are dispersed in rural villages along coasts and entry is via 'open access') represents one of the main challenges for achieving sustainable practices in small-scale fisheries. Research in how to achieve governance arrangements that could enhance sustainable benefits is one of the underlying issues. •

Natural resource management

PLAAS conducts research on the governance of natural resources—the norms, institutions, and processes that determine how power and responsibilities governing natural resources are exercised, how decisions are taken and how citizens secure access to and participate in the management of natural resources. Natural resource governance is a complex and intensely contested terrain. The substantive issues are very complex, particularly those relating to the management of sensitive ecosystems and the ability of powerful players to externalise costs onto the natural environment. This is also an area which has been very easy to silence the voices of marginalised and poor groupings, making decision-making the prerogative of powerful corporates, governments, and scientific experts. Fairer, more equitable, and more effective forms of participatory and democratic management of natural resources are crucial – not only in order to protect poor livelihoods, but also to ensure that natural resource governance systems receive local buy-in and support.

This can be complicated and challenging, particularly due to multiple uses and users of natural resources, who have multiple objectives, variable interests and power differentials. In 2018 Mafa Hara's research on 'Co-management and governance of inland fisheries' on the Water Research Commission (WRC)-funded project titled 'Towards enhancing contributions of inland fisheries to rural livelihoods' considered the challenges of governing inland fisheries and the requisite institutional arrangements for ensuring the sustainable use of the ecosystems services provided by public dams in South Africa among the various stakeholders, such as domestic and industrial water beneficiaries, small-scale fishers, recreational fishers, tourism and irrigation farmers.


Hara's work on fisheries and marine resources governance involved his continued membership of South Africa's Small Pelagic Scientific Working Group and Small Pelagic Resource Management Working Group as a social scientist. Two issues had pre-occupied the groups in 2018. Firstly, the dramatic decline in the biomass of sardine in South African waters and secondly, preparations for the end of the fifteen-year long-term rights in 2020. In both instances, Hara provided inputs about the socio-economic implications of the decline

in sardine and how to evaluate performance of current rights-holders as part of the procedures for developing decision criteria for the re-issuing of rights from 2021. A concept note on this was submitted to the Chief Director: Research of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (DAFF).

The illness of our colleague in the water sector, Dr Barbara Tapela, who suffered a stroke in 2016, continued to affect our work in this area. During 2018, Hara steered to completion two WRC-funded projects that had been initiated by her. The first was a project on integrating indigenous knowledge systems into natural resource planning policies and strategies. This project investigated the commercialisation of indigenous resources, including salt harvesting; the indigenous knowledge practices around the harvesting practices and how rural communities can be linked to commercial market value chains, focusing on Baleni salt mining by rural communities in Mahumani Traditional Authority in Limpopo. The findings showed that rural communities that depend on indigenous natural resources can use these for commercial harvesting and derive economic benefits if they were linked to market value chains.

The second project was focused on land tenure, tenancy and water services delivery in South Africa. This project sought to identify key questions that could develop policy tools to enable key stakeholders to deal with water and sanitation service delivery challenges emerging from the scenario of rapid urbanisation and de-agrarianisation of the post-1994 South African socio-economic landscape. The project reported that tenure and tenancy are key among common denominators that determine the patterns by which citizenry practically negotiate and attain (or not) secure access to water and sanitation services. Institutional arrangements and regulatory frameworks do not deliver on the hydro-social contract in themselves. Another finding was that since governance and implementation functions are often both contentious, a detailed understanding of land tenure and tenancy at the micro plot level is central to resolving the constraints to secure equitable access to water and sanitation services.

At continental level, Hara continued to serve as a member of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism, an Africa Union-based



Natural resources utilisation is increasingly socially, economically, and ecologically contested given the growing human and market needs.

continental platform whose task is to facilitate the development, adoption and implementation of reforms in fisheries governance and management in Africa through the FISH-GOV project. This EU-funded project, which ended in 2018, had its basis in the realisation that Africa has vast fish resources whose current benefits could be sustainably increased through sound governance practices and appropriate institutional arrangements by member states and regional fisheries bodies. Here, Hara participated in the compilation of the first Africa Fisheries Report (forthcoming), which is earmarked as the definitive annual or periodical publication on African fisheries.

The site of natural resources use is increasingly socially, economically and ecologically contested and dynamic given the growing human and market needs. One of the challenges for the governance of marine oceans and coasts and inland public dams in South Africa is that there are multiple uses and users. There are therefore multiple categories of stakeholders for the ecosystem services that are derived from these natural resources. For the former, there are fisheries (small-scale, industrial,

and recreational), residential housing, tourism, shipping, mining and petroleum extraction, and mariculture. For the latter, there are small-scale fishers, recreational fishers, irrigation farmers, domestic and industrial water users, tourist lodges and guesthouses.

Renewable natural resource ecosystems are usually complex and resilient systems, which, if governed properly, could facilitate the sustainable use of natural resource ecosystems. Achieving this, requires adaptive and inclusive governance. Adaptive co-governance hinges on the understanding that the institutional and organisational landscapes are approached as carefully as the ecological landscape in order to clarify features that contribute to the resilience of the socio-ecological system. Given the complexity and dynamic nature of socio-ecological systems, two key overarching future research questions are:

- How can sustainable and adaptive governance of renewable natural resources be achieved while ensuring inclusivity and equity?
- How can sustainable, resilient and equitable resource governance be delivered? •

Food systems

One of the most debilitating and damaging implications of endemic poverty is the way it makes itself felt in chronic hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition among marginalised and vulnerable people. Even though South Africa is, at a national level, food secure, almost 40% of its citizens lack reliable access to affordable and nutritious food. In our research, we focus not only on issues relating to agricultural productivity, but to the functioning of the entire food system. Food system research is a well established research field in South Africa. However, in contrast to most mainstream approaches (which are mainly concerned with the ability of the food system to produce food) our work also focuses on the broader social impacts of the economic organisation of the food system, including its ability to contribute to employment and livelihoods, and the effects of our agrarian structure on the nature of South African inequality.

During 2018, we continued to work closely with the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security (CoE-FS) to explore the implications of food system restructuring on the prospects of equitable and inclusive growth in Southern Africa. Supported by funding from the CoE-FS, PLAAS's partner the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation (SLF), conducted research on the competitive dynamics in South Africa's spaza retail sector. This work, which built on SLF's research for the South African Competition Commission, charted the effects of the 'race to the bottom' unleashed by the entry of large supermarket retailers into the spatial geographies of South Africa's townships — while those who have access to cash income have enjoyed the availability of cheap food, these broader economic dynamics have resulted in the destruction of 'survivalist' livelihoods and is at risk of fuelling the flames of anti-foreigner sentiment and xenophobia. While the report was completed in 2018, it was embargoed pending approval by the Competition Commission.

Also, in collaboration with the CoE-FS, PLAAS supported a pilot project on a "Market Observatory for Regional Food Systems" by the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED) at the University of Johannesburg. This project collected key information around three key commodities (maize, wheat and soya) and two key inputs (fertilisers and seed) to establish a tracking and monitoring network across the region for information collation, analysis and policy advice regarding ownership, control and concentration of food

systems. Mafa Hara also worked on the trade-related "Trade and investment in fish and fish products between South Africa and the rest of SADC" project. Fish is the most traded commodity worldwide. In recent years, we have seen the expansion of intra-Africa regional fish trade, through both formal and informal channels. In collaboration with the World Fish Centre and other African universities, PLAAS conducted research on the livelihoods and nutrition security benefits, and the regulatory and institutional bottlenecks of regional fish trade.

While employment and livelihoods were our key focus areas, nutrition loomed large as an important issue for research. David Neves and Florian Kroll took part in a project on "Researching the obesogenic food environment in Ghana and South Africa." This project combined fine-grained area-based nutritional and dietary analysis with a focus on the larger agro-food supply and value chains within these two countries; early outputs from the project indicate a clear link between risky food environments and obesogenic diets. In addition, Kroll worked closely with the CoE-FS's Food Policy theme and the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn) to support the development of a Community of Practice in Food Governance in South Africa. This work supports the development of links and conversations between food system researchers and metropolitan officials and managers in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Useful as these interventions have been, PLAAS's work on food systems during 2018 did not succeed in fully exploiting the synergies that potentially exist between this issue and its work on agriculture and farming systems. Here, the restricted funding available from the DST-NRF CoE-FS played a limiting role. Outside of the relationship with CoE-FS, Refiloe Joala worked on Agro-Food Systems Change and the Right to Food in Southern Africa, funded by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA). In partnership with CSO partners in Mozambique and Zambia, Joala's research explored the implications of agro-food structuring and investments in cash crops in Mozambique and Zambia. The research highlighted some of the adverse impacts of large scale agricultural investments in these countries, and its findings indicate that the rise of soya (a quintessential 'flex' crop due to its multiple and flexible uses) and the integration of smallholder farmers into soybean value chains in Mozambique and Zambia, are among the key drivers of the

“[a]s a result of large-scale land transfers for corporate farming, smallholder farmers were displaced from farm and grazing land, water sources, and other natural resources which diminished their food growing capacity.”

transformations underway in local agro-food systems and how farming households produce and access food. Although there are beneficiaries, the vast majority of smallholders participating in the expanding soybean value chains — which link into animal feed-to-poultry complexes — are struggling to exploit these new opportunities for profit, since farming becomes more capital intensive. Furthermore, as a result of large-scale land transfers for corporate farming, smallholder farmers were displaced from farm and grazing land, water sources, and other natural resources which diminished their food growing capacity.

PLAAS will continue to collaborate with the CoE-FS where resources allow this. One of the key challenges facing us in 2019 and 2020 is finding a basis for a more integrated approach that can link our research on farming systems to our agro-food research more broadly. One important way to achieve this will be raising funds for an ambitious research project that can explore the potential for approaches to land reform in order to maximise the ability of smallholder farming to support both job creation and food and nutritional security. •



IMAGE BY: ANDREW ASHTON

Poverty, inequality and social policy

Persistent poverty and enduring inequality remains a defining challenge for social policy in South Africa. Despite South Africa's upper middle-income country status, millions live in poverty. Many of the conventional anti-poverty measures, and policy prescriptions for human development (such as health and education provision) are relatively inefficient. Addressing the challenge of poverty and inequality is hampered by a slow growing (and labour un-intensive) economy, a dysfunctional (even 'captured') state and the limited fiscal space to expand social interventions. On top of this concerning evidence emerged of foot-dragging by the Minister of Social Development in implementing the Constitutional Court's instruction that social grants had to be in-sourced in order to prevent financial capture of the poor by the agencies entrusted with grant payments.

Recent poverty and social policy related research at PLAAS has centred two specific areas. The first related to aspects of 'financialisation' in relation to the poor, and vulnerable social grant recipients. The second, concerned issues of food security and nutrition in relation to the larger agro-food system.

In the first area, David Neves researched the relationship between the financial sector and impoverished South Africans. Although seemingly the realm of social policy, the financial services sector and 'financialisation' increasingly impacts on poor people. PLAAS supported the work of the Black Sash in addressing the threats posed by predatory lending to grant recipients.

The second area is a two-country project which examined the implications for impoverished and vulnerable people of agro-food system change in South Africa and Ghana, and is covered in more detail in our discussion of food systems research at PLAAS (see page 22).

Poverty and vulnerability at the margins of the South African economy are likely to continue intensifying problems for the future. Fundamentals for economic growth are looking weak and mainstream policy looks unlikely to succeed in generating jobs where they are needed. In addition, social policy is shackled by the extremely tight limits on fiscal space – not only because of competition from other sectors (e.g. health and education) but also the cost of state capture and the debt burden incurred by struggling SOEs. In this context, it is vital to better understand the forms of systemic disadvantage suffered by poor and landless people in their attempts to access the social state.

In this context, three key issues are of interest to PLAAS. First, there are important insights to be had from a deeper look at Poverty dynamics – Emerging opportunities, such as longitudinal panel data (from National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS)) offer the potential to reopen debates, to better understand the drivers, dynamics and determinants of poverty.

Secondly, more work is needed on economic informality. The informal financial services and institutions used by the inhabitants of informal and impoverished spaces (e.g. townships, informal settlements and former homelands are still poorly understood). Furthermore we need to better understand the extent and role of the informal sector and 'informalisation' in the agro-food system. Both issues have implications for social policy.

Thirdly, research on social protection and social grants remains of central importance. Despite the plateauing of the social grant system, expansion questions remain. The first pertains to the use and effectiveness of social grants, including their articulation with 'productive' or livelihood-enhancing activities. The second, many vulnerable individuals (viz. non-disabled, working-age adults) currently find themselves outside the welfare net. Thirdly, social grant recipients still experience huge problems in gaining access to appropriate financial services – especially in the context of capture, widespread indebtedness and the collateralisation of recipients' grants. •



Fundamentals for economic growth are looking weak and mainstream policy looks unlikely to succeed in generating jobs where they are needed.

IMAGE BY: ISABEL SOMMERFELD

Teaching and training

PLAAS strives to provide our students with a supportive and engaging learning environment to create a sense of belonging. For our research programmes, our teaching and supervision adopted a research-led workshop approach encouraging interactive debates and discussions. Students are required to attend various workshops throughout the year, taking them through the research process. In 2018, we hosted a theory workshop on the 'Political Economy of Rural Change'. The workshop was aimed at introducing the students to fundamental concepts and theoretical frameworks for their studies. The purpose is to enhance the student experience, to strengthen our offerings as a niche area, and to raise our profile locally, regionally and globally. The introduction to this approach is progressing well, resulting in most of our 2018 cohorts having registered their titles to conduct fieldwork within the required timeframe.

Our professional programme was revived to include more e-learning aspects, and achieve the Institutional Operating Plan (IOP) Goal 1 of enhancing the student experience, and to create a sense of agency. Our students interacted with various stakeholders such as farm workers, small-scale farmers and commercial farmers in a field trip to the Philippi Farming Area. Our classroom discussions became more engaging with students being conversant on the topical issues at hand, and relevant networks between groups are strengthened.

Registrations, Graduations and Scholarships

Over the past 23 years, we graduated a total of 229 students. For the period under review, PLAAS had a total of 15 graduates across our programme offerings—we had 11 Postgraduate Diploma, one PhD and three MPhil graduates. Our new registrations include four PhD, five MPhil and 20 Postgraduate Diploma students. Our student profile is mostly South African—especially our professional programme—but we are expanding our regional footprint in relation to our research programmes.

Securing scholarships is key for students and also contributes to growing and strengthening UWC's postgraduate culture and support to postgraduate students. We acknowledge the support scholarships provide in capacity building and strengthening research. We applied to become a host institution for German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarships for the 2018 intake. We were successful and were awarded

MPhil and PhD scholarships under the DAAD project. This also allows us to spread our footprint across the continent.

Training at PLAAS

We broadened our expertise, in collaboration with the Political Studies Department, to train the Namibian Landless People's Movement from 29–30 August 2018. The key focus covered the land question and its lessons in the South African and Namibian context, innovation and technology for economic development, and the political economy of land and agrarian reform in Southern Africa.

NELGA

PLAAS forms part of the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) as a full node. The initiative was set up by the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) mandated to implement the African Union's agenda on land, to retool land professionals in Africa at improving land policy in a regional context. We play a key role in providing short-course training to land professionals on the political economy of land governance in Africa. We successfully launched our first short-course in its pilot phase in South Africa. Our training brought together experts from Namibia University of Science and Technology, Ardhi University in Tanzania, the Van Vollenhoven Institute at the Leiden School of Law in the Netherlands, and our PLAAS staff.

Our participants—17 land professionals—experienced an intensive week of class-based learning, and were exposed to a rural environment and interviewed locals who were dealing with land and other natural resource rights disputes. They submitted their various assessments and all “graduated” at the end of the week with a UWC-endorsed Certificate of Competence.

This project is spearheaded by Ruth Hall and Moenieba Isaacs.

DST-NRF SARChI Chair in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies

It is Ben Cousins' fourth year of the second phase of his research programme which started in 2015 as DST-NRF SARChI Chair* in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies. The research foci for this phase are the dynamics of change in commercial agriculture in Southern Africa;

land rights in communal areas in South Africa; impacts of agrarian change on rural livelihoods in communal areas; the impact of land reform on the character of small-scale farming and rural livelihoods; and the impact of land reform on systems of livestock production. The SARChI Chair provides funding for six PhD students and one post-doctoral student, all contributing to the scholarship on agrarian change in terms of the class dynamics of capitalism. One PhD student has submitted her dissertation for examination. Cousins also supervises two MPhil students with Centre of Excellence in Food Security scholarships.

The methodology of the SARChI Chair includes an innovative approach constituting peer group learning and working on complementary projects. This is an unusual approach in the social sciences domain, but facilitates high levels of peer learning, mutual support and collegial debate.

The SARChI Chair contributes significantly to the university's goal in strengthening UWC's position as an excellent research and innovation university with local relevance, regional impact and global recognition. In 2018, three journal articles, three book chapters, one working paper, one policy brief, and three op-eds were published under this research programme. In addition to this, one radio interview, and 17 presentations were given. •

*Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Research Foundation (NRF) South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI)

Images from top:

1. Postgraduate Diploma, MPhil, and PhD graduates with Moenieba Isaacs (far right).
2. Postgraduate Diploma students on a field trip.
3. Postgraduate Diploma students and Moenieba Isaacs celebrating “doek day”.



PLAAS researchers



Prof. Andries du Toit has a PhD from Essex University, where he participated in Ernesto Laclau's PhD group on Ideology and Discourse Analysis. Originally interested in the contestation of social power relations on commercial wine farms, he now focuses more generally on the politics of marginality and inequality in the context of South Africa's stalled agrarian transition. For most of 2018, he was on sabbatical leave, laying the groundwork for a planned book (provisional title: *All who Live in It*). The book will explore how the realities of landlessness and economic exclusion complicate inclusive constructions of political community in SA. He is managed by his partner, two teenage stepdaughters, and a small brown *Africanis* dog called Millie.



Prof. Ben Cousins holds the DST/NRF Chair in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies. He supervises five doctoral and three Master's degree students, and, together with his students, undertake research and advocacy relating to small-scale agriculture, agrarian restructuring and land tenure reform in South Africa. He engages in long-term field research in Msinga, Kwa-Zulu Natal, and has collected data on processes of agrarian change in the Tugela Ferry Irrigation Scheme for over 10 years. He employs theories and concepts from agrarian political economy, and foregrounds class relations and social differentiation in his analysis of rural social dynamics. He is known for his love of obscure jazz and for adding the words 'class analytic' to most sentences.



Prof. Ruth Hall holds a DPhil in Politics from the University of Oxford, where her doctoral work focussed on the interests, actors and discourses that influenced the development of South African land reform policy. Until recently, her work at PLAAS focussed on research and policy advice on land and agrarian reform within South Africa. In recent years, however, her focus has extended beyond South African land and agrarian policy to incorporate a more international perspective. Her main research now is on land rights and the future of food and farming in sub-Saharan Africa. She leads a five-country study on the politics and impacts of large-scale land acquisitions, and convenes a small grants programme of twenty smaller studies covering fourteen African countries.



Prof. Moenieba Isaacs coordinates the PLAAS Academic Programme and the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) short-course on the Political Economy of Land Governance. She leads the fisheries research cluster in South Africa and the region. She is an engaged and reflective scholar. She was awarded the UWC Institutional Individual Engagement Excellence Award for her research, policy and community engagement work in fisheries in South Africa. She hails from Ocean View and her favourite pastime is swimming in the ocean with her dogs.



Prof. Mafaniso Hara heads the research area on Natural Resource Governance at PLAAS. His research interests are in governance, livelihoods, and food and nutrition security associated with renewable natural resources and climate change in developing countries – particularly Africa. He has published extensively on natural resource governance in Southern Africa, particularly fisheries, in the past thirty years. His research activities in 2018 spanned from fisheries governance in South Africa (both inland small scale and marine industrial) and Malawi, from where he hails. He is a veteran of a number of EU-funded multi-partner projects and is one of the few members of staff who is not reduced to tears by the sight of multi-year narrative logframe project.



Dr. Phillan Zamchiya has been associated with PLAAS since 2006. He obtained his DPhil at Oxford University, studying with Prof. Jocelyn Alexander and focusing on Agrarian Change in Zimbabwe: Politics, production and accumulation. Before entering academia, he worked as a pro-democracy activist in Harare, Zimbabwe, and as a consultant on land reform, development, civil society programming, democratisation and national elections in South Africa. In 2018, he headed up a team of researchers working on a project on Land and Water Rights in the SADC region. In the office, he goes by 'President' – perhaps because no other researcher at PLAAS owns or wears suits half as sharp as he does.



Dr. Farai Mtero holds a PhD in Land and Agrarian Studies and his PhD research investigated the extent to which livelihoods in rural Eastern Cape are implicated in processes of social differentiation and class formation. His current research focuses on agrarian change in the countryside as part of the broader transformations in wider society. In 2018, he was part of the PLAAS team exploring key questions on who has been benefiting from land redistribution in South Africa, and the extent to which the Land Redistribution programme has been susceptible to elite capture. Farai is an avid reader who enjoys taking nature walks with his two boys.



David Neves is a senior researcher at PLAAS. He holds a Master's degree in Research Psychology from Rhodes University and is currently completing his PhD. His research interests include poverty, inequality and vulnerable livelihoods in relation to Southern Africa. He has conducted research on aspects of vulnerable and marginalised livelihoods, social policy and social protection, and rural and informal sector employment. In 2018, his work focused on examining the intersections between nutrition, vulnerability and the larger agro-food system in South Africa and Ghana. A veteran of deep rural fieldwork, he is exploring the possibility of PLAAS acquiring a used Soviet-era Ilyushin IL-76 airlifter for those difficult-to-reach remote field sites.



Refiloe Joala is a researcher and PhD candidate. She joined PLAAS after a stint as a researcher within the Tshwane city government. In 2018, she was funded by the Open Society Foundation to run action research and collect data with civil society organisations (CSOs) in Mozambique and Zambia on changing agro-food systems within the context of large-scale land based investments. Other related work on the right to food in southern Africa includes Refiloe's contribution to the CSO Alternative Report to the 2017 SA State Report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UN-CESCR). She also presented to the UN-CESCR on the right to food in South Africa during a 2018 briefing. She is an empathetic researcher, recovering social media addict, outdoors newbie and foodie.



Cyriaque Hakizimana is a researcher and PhD candidate at PLAAS. He obtained a Master's degree in Development Studies from the School of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal—his academic training is in poverty reduction approaches. His research interest is in agricultural development within the broader field of agrarian transformation. Over the past three years he has been involved in the multi-national Land and Agricultural Commercialisation in Africa (LACA) project which investigates how agrarian transitions happen and how farming models articulate the relationships between land, labour and capital in commercial enterprises. He is currently leading the Southern Africa regional hub of the Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) programme, and coordinates the Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA) Network. He wears many hats, a black American Stetson and a white naval officer's cap being among his favourites.



Nkanyiso Gumede has a strong interest in land and agrarian reform, communal land rights, and large-scale land-based investments in the communal areas. During 2018, he was involved in research investigating the nature and character of land redistribution in South Africa. Before that, he worked on the impact of large-scale agricultural investments on land rights and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the communal areas of South Africa. Nkanyiso holds a Master of Agriculture in Food Security from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and is in the process of obtaining an MPhil in Land and Agrarian Studies, investigating the outcomes of land redistribution on employment, and the land rights and livelihoods of farmworkers. He believes that kindness is an important gesture worth displaying towards others.



Katlego Ramantsima is a researcher in PLAAS's agriculture and farming systems research team. She holds a Master's degree in Development Theory and Policy from the University of the Witwatersrand, where she also worked as a research assistant for the Mining and Rural Transformation in South Africa (MARTISA) project based at the Society Work and Politics Institute (SWOP). Here, her great interest in resource-based development, land, political economy, and urban regeneration including rural social change was ignited. Since Katlego joined PLAAS and for most of 2018, she explored SA's rural countryside while conducting research for the land reform and elite capture project. As an advocate for positive social change Katlego believes her big smile is one of the small but significant ways she can make an impact.

PLAAS support staff



Ursula Arends has an MA in Development Studies (supervised by Ben Cousins) and has served PLAAS for 20 years, initially as Senior Projects Administrator and for the past 16 years as Administrative Manager. Her social media engagement is focused on Twitter, where she is inspired by Ava DuVernay, Greta Thunberg; learns from Ruth Hall, Naila Kabeer; gains courage from Ilhan Omar, Owen Jones; and enjoys the 'tjatjarage' Redi Tlhabi and Eusebius McKaiser.



Trevor Reddy joined PLAAS in 2013 as Financial Manager. Having previously worked in UWC finance division, he is well-grounded in Higher Education Finance and with deep experience in budgeting, financial reporting and risk within the industry. Trevor recently added the Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration to his academic qualifications, thus inspiring members of his family to embark on tertiary study.



Carla Henry started her career at PLAAS more than 11 years ago – initially as Programme Administrator and subsequently as Senior Administrator. She holds the BComm and BComm Honours (Management) degrees and manages all administrative aspects of the PLAAS postgraduate teaching and training programme. She also provides dedicated administrative support to the DST/NRF Research Chair in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies. In 2018, Carla took a 6-month break from 'mothering' the PLAAS Master's, PhD and post-doctoral students, to become a mother, and welcomed the arrival of her daughter, Hannah.



Joy van Dieman joined PLAAS six years ago as Administrator, providing administrative support to research staff and management, managing events and arranging travel logistics. During 2018 Joy demonstrated her administrative versatility when she was deployed to the PLAAS Postgraduate Teaching and Training Programme during Carla Henry's maternity leave period. She subsequently provided administrative support to the Network of Excellence in Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) project, which had its inception short-course training at UWC. Don't joke with her about 'Die Man'; she's heard it too many times already.



Donovan Delpaul holds a National Diploma in Auditing and has served PLAAS for 12 years in various positions, and currently as the Senior Finance Officer. He works alongside the PLAAS Financial Manager, liaising with the university Finance Department, overseeing purchase orders, managing the organisational vehicles, ensuring payments, monitoring income, ensuring accurate allocations to the general ledger, and archiving financial records. When he is not taking care of the PLAAS finances – or his daughter Hannah – he takes to the road on his motorcycle. It is not clear yet whether he plans for Hannah to join him.



Babongile Malama started at PLAAS seven years ago, initially as Senior Student Assistant, and currently as Administrator, rendering administrative support to all PLAAS staff and overseeing the front-of-house area. She is currently developing her communications skills, drawing on her BA Honours degree in Language and Communication, to work alongside the PLAAS Communications Officer. She continues to apply her meticulous planning and organised approach, while ensuring a steady supply of Fair Trade coffee for PLAAS staff.



Emmanuel Ogbuabo joined PLAAS in March 2018 as a Senior Student Assistant, and provides general admin support. He is currently registered for a Masters in Development Studies. His work experience includes tutoring Anthropology and Sociology for the UWC Residential Services Living and Learning Programme, and the Department of Anthropology and Sociology. He was a Research Assistant with the Gender and Development Research Group and Health Policy Research Group in Nigeria where he facilitated qualitative research data gathering, transcribing and coding data for analysis. He holds a BSc in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Nigeria and a Honours Degree in Development Studies from the University of the Western Cape.



Farren Sefela joined PLAAS in March 2017 as a Senior Student Assistant. She is currently registered for an MA in Geography, and in addition completed a non-degree module course in Advanced Environmental Law (LLM). Her work experience includes tutoring Tourism and Geography at the Department of Geography, Environmental Studies and Tourism. She also worked as a Data Capturer (WCED), Student Research Assistant for the Greater Tygerberg Partnership and Student Assistant at Student Administration (UWC). Additionally, she is a member of the Golden Key International Honours Society. Farren works closely with Front of House staff and provides general admin support. Farren is also the resident nerd, through her love of all things Game of Thrones and secretly reads movie scripts from her favourite movies.



Jenine Baartman has been associated with PLAAS for almost 10 years as our dedicated Office Assistant. She has extended her role of maintaining a clean and comfortable working environment for PLAAS staff and visitors, to include practical advice on beating cold and flu bugs, removing stains from any surface or fabric, and feeding a large family on a low budget. Jenine ensures that lunch-boxes are successfully reunited with their owners and reports errant coffee drinkers who imagine they can get away with using other colleagues' cups.

PLAAS financial overview

PLAAS Consolidated Income and Expenditure Report

		2017	2018
Income	Note	20 648 191,08	26 016 964,34
Austrian Development Agency		2 985 450,00	3 213 329,88
Claude Leon Foundation			750 000,00
Copenhagen Business School		41 789,15	86 100,78
DAAD			347 418,61
Institute of Development Studies		325 897,91	207 951,60
Memorial University of Newfoundland		314 235,32	
Millennium Trust		1 300 000,00	
New America Foundation		240 196,02	
OMIDYAR Network		604 579,25	
Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa		2 441 707,00	684 465,00
Open Society Foundation			4 315 561,60
OXFAM			2 424 677,16
Packard Foundation		519 893,40	3 404 926,52
Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development		384 936,57	
Rosa Luxemburg Foundation		97 983,00	
SA Government–National Research Foundation Chair	1	3 570 070,81	3 170 991,60
SA Government–National Research Foundation DST–COE		1 518 400,00	231 000,00
SA Government–Parliament SA		820 000,00	
SA Government–Water Research Council		100 000,00	1 992 750,00
Sundry Small Grants			300 000,00
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa		1 337 039,60	
University of Sweden–Agricultural		48 923,57	80 309,51
University of Toronto		140 563,89	
University of the Western Cape–Operational Support		611 827,60	638 745,49
University of the Western Cape–Staffing Support		3 240 167,99	3 810 982,22
World Fish			133 131,06
Other Income (Recovery of overhead and other expenses)		4 530,00	224 623,31

		2017	2018
Expenditure	Note	18 631 596,88	21 038 446,98
Personnel Costs (including UWC Staffing Permanent staff)		9 470 423,23	11 764 414,08
Operational Costs		504 901,69	498 762,31
Equipment and Rental		93 552,53	76 148,44
Research Costs (Service Level Agreements to Partners)		2 854 876,79	4 174 616,44
NRF Research Costs	1	1 899 743,67	1 424 930,28
Teaching and Training (Bursaries for Post Graduate Programme and consultants)		491 623,80	653 028,50
Dissemination (including Communications)		257 374,63	456 068,99
Travel and Accommodation (includes Events and Research Assistants)		3 059 100,54	1 990 477,94

	2017	2018
Opening balance at beginning of the year	4 457 793,64	6 697 120,31
Inter-entity transfers	111 827,60	415 181,71
Net movement for the year	2 127 499,07	4 978 517,36
Closing Balance at End of Period (Operating Activities)	6 697 120,31	12 090 819,38

Note: 1. Includes NRF Chair and NRF Research Grant expenditure for the period.

